

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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R 201840Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5804

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4001

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USINT ALGIERS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USDELMC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T USNATO 2794

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/82

TAGS: PFOR, PFOR, MOPS

SUBJECT: NAVAL ON-CALL FORCE MEDITERRANEAN (NAVOCFORMED) VISITS
TO NON-NATO PORTS

REF: A. DIA 162146Z MAY 74

B. STATE 161306 (1973)

SUMMARY. CHAUMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WROTE TO THE
SECRETARY GENERAL MAY 17 TO ASK HIM TO SOUND OUT DELEGATIONS
TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THREE NON-NATO PORT VISITS MIGHT BE
MOST ACCEPTABLE POLITICALLY FOR NAVOCFORMED DURING THE NEXT
ACTIVATION OF THAT FORCE. OF THE THREE UNDER CONSIDERATION--

SECRET

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TUNIS, SPLIT, AND VALLETTE--MISSION BELIEVES VALLETTA IS LEAST
ACCEPTABLE. WE NOTE THAT, NOW THAT SOVIETS HAVE SCHEDULED A
VISIT TO TUNIS, THE US POSITION MAY HAVE CHANGED CONCERNING
A VISIT TO THAT PORT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERED A WORKING PAPER WHICH DEALT WITH SACEUR'S SUGGESTED LIST OF NON-NATO PORTS FOR THE NINTH NAVOCFORMED ACTIVATION DURING OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1974. SACEUR SUGGESTED THAT VISITS TO THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE OF VALUE: TUNIS, SPLIT, CYPRUS (SIC), MALTA (SIC). AT THE REQUEST OF THE TURKISH MILREP, CYPRUS WAS DROPPED FROM THE LIST.

2. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (ADM. HILL-NORTON) HAS REQUESTED THAT THE SUG INFORMALLY SOUND OUT DELEGATIONS TO DETERMINE WHICH PORT MIGHT BE MOST ACCEPTABLE FROM THE POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW.

3. REF A REPORTED THAT TUNIS HAS APPROVED THE VISIT OF A SOVIET WARSHIP HAS BEEN SO CLEARED. A PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR NAVOCFORMED TO VISIT TUNIS IN OCT 1973 WAS REJECTED BY THE US AT LEAST PARTLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT OPEN THE DOOR TO SOVIET VISITS. REF B REFERS. THIS ASPECT OF THE SITUATION HAS NOW CHANGED.

4. CONCERNING SPLIT, RELEVANT FACTORS WHICH WASHINGTON WILL WISH TO WEIGH IN DECIDING ON POSSIBLE VISIT ARE YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITIES AS A RESULT OF RECENT EXERCISE DARK IMAGE AND TRIESTE ISSUE AND MORE RECENT SOVIET NAVAL CALLS ON YUGUSLAV PORTS. IN THE CASE OF MALTA, WE ASSUME THAT UNDERSTANDINGS WHEN CURRENT UK AGREEMENT WITH MALTA WAS SIGNED INDICATE THAT VALLETTA IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A NAVOCFORMED VISIT.

5. MISSION CONSIDERS THAT A NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO AN APPROPRIATE NON-NATO PORT HAS POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY VALUE AND THAT IF POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD SUPPORT SUCH A VISIT SOON IN ORDER THAT THE SYG WOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF US VIEWS EARLY IN HIS SOUNDINGS. IF WASHINGTON APPROVES, MISSION WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION EITHER BY LETTER TO THE SYG OR INFORMALLY AT A PERM REPS' LUNCH, GIVING US PREFERENCE AS TO PORT. ACTION REQUESTED:

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WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
MCAULIFFE

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TAGS: PFOR, PFOR, MOPS
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
BELGRADE
MADRID
TUNIS
VALLETTA
ALGIERS

USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
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USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
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